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# McHenry Coal Company Collection (MSS 29)

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Manuscripts & Folklife Archives  
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 Kentucky Library & Museum  
 Western Kentucky University  
 Bowling Green, KY 42101

*Descriptive Inventory*

**MSS 29 McHENRY Coal Company Collection**

2 boxes. 6 items. 1886-1905. Originals.

1958.19.1

***BIOGRAPHY AND HISTORY***

William Graham Duncan (1851-1929), superintendent and co-owner of the McHenry Mines, was called "The Coal King" of Muhlenberg County, Kentucky. Born in Scotland, Duncan came with his parent to Airdrie, Kentucky, in 1855. His father Andrew Duncan, a practical miner, had been invited by Lord R. S. C. Aitcheson Alexander to supervise Lord Alexander's mines. After the Airdrie furnace was abandoned, Duncan operated coal mines near Paradise and Airdrie, where William G. grew to manhood. After managing a number of mines in Ohio County and other places, William G. returned to Muhlenberg County in 1900 and opened two successful mines. Duncan served as president of the W. G. Duncan Coal Company which was sold to the Peabody Coal Company of Chicago in the 1950s. On May 16, 1878, Duncan married Mary H. Hamilton, and their children were Katie Belle, Andrew W., and W. Graham Duncan, Jr. Andrew served Duncan Coal Company as secretary-treasurer and William G., Jr., was its mining engineer.

Bibliographical Notes

Kentucky State Department of Health.  
*Directory of Births and Deaths*  
*Registered in Kentucky*, Series 4,  
 1926-1930.

Perrin, W. H., Battle, J. H., and Kniffen,  
 G. C. *Kentucky, History of a State*.

Rothert, Otto A. *A History of*  
*Muhlenburg County*, 1913.

***THE COLLECTION***

These account books cover all operational phases of the McHenry Coal Company mines and their company store at McHenry and at the Echols mines in Ohio

County. Included in the collection are a ledger of employee's records, invoices of the company stores, accounts of daily production at the mines, land lease records, rent rolls, patient lists of Doctors Moore, Koontx, and Bohannon, list of employees' daily wages, employees' account at the company stores, and drafts from James Robertson's lumber mill to his employees which were used as cash at the McHenry Coal Company store.

### ***SHELF LIST***

<b>BOX 1</b>	<b>Employee ledger</b>	<b>1886-1892</b>	<b>1 item</b>
<b>BOX 2</b>	<b>Company records</b>	<b>1892-1905</b>	<b>5 items</b>
Folder 1	Invoice of company store	1892-1893	1 item; 56p.
Folder 2	Daily production account	1893-1903	2 items; 4-57p. 107-127p.
Folder 3	Accounts of company store	1895-1898	1 item; 248p.
Folder 4	Invoice of company store	1896	1 item; 15-93p.
Folder 5	Daily production account	1896-1905	2 items; 12-105p. 200-209p.

### ***BIBLIOGRAPHIC RECORD***

MSS 29	McHENRY Coal Company Collection	1886-1905
	Production ledgers of the mines and invoices and account books of the company stores in Ohio County, Kentucky. 2 boxes. 6 volumes. 1958.19.1	

### ***SUBJECT ANALYTICS***

Account books, 1886-1905  
Coal industry and trade, 1886-1905

Company stores, 1886-1905  
Duncan, William Graham, 1851-1929  
Echols Mines – Ohio County, 1886-1905

Ohio County – Coal industry and trade, 1886-1905  
Ohio County – Account books, 1886-1905

Jeffrey 11/11/2011